

Regional Coalition Conference Call Summary
Thursday, November 5, 2015 – 9:30 to 10:30 AM

9: 30 AM Scott Graves, California Budget and Policy Center
sgraves@calbudgetcenter.org

Resources: Here are links to three Budget and Policy Center presentations:

The first links to an information graphic on the budget process

The second is a recent piece Scott did on the MCO tax.

The third is a recent budget overview presentation

[http://ccfortlssconference.homestead.com/CCoC_Fall2015/Navigating the State Budget Process.pdf](http://ccfortlssconference.homestead.com/CCoC_Fall2015/Navigating_the_State_Budget_Process.pdf)

<http://calbudgetcenter.org/blog/qa-the-special-legislative-session-on-funding-for-health-and-human-services/>

<http://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-10-12-DD-Presentation-SCREEN.pdf>

Five key takeaways about the state budget process;

- State budget not just about dollars and sense: advocacy can focus on values and vision – what kind of California do we want to live in. So, start with “Why” – start with values and priorities
- The process is cyclical not linear – see the graphic from Scott (link above). Advocates need to be thinking about how to engage the budget at any point in the year.
- Governor has the lead role – he has the most power. He proposes a budget each year (released on January 10); then the revised budget released on May; then in June, the governor has line-item veto authority (delete or reduce any spending item).
- Legislature’s role is primarily to review and revise. Budget subcommittees hold many hearings in the spring: approve, modify, reject the governor’s proposal. During the process, most of the attention goes to the modifications and rejections.
- Public input does matter: e.g., this time of year, legislative leaders are thinking about their budget priorities; the governor is making final decisions, too, for his budget proposal. Also spend this time getting to know the budget subcommittee staff – once the budget proposal is released, their time is limited. This is also a good time to figure out who is who within the governor’s office and administration. (So, the late summer and fall are good times to try to convince people within the administration to adopt your proposal.) All year is the time to build coalitions.

One highlighted issue: the MCO tax. Current tax expires this coming summer. This tax on managed care organizations with Medi-Cal managed care plans brings in an additional \$1 billion for Medi-Cal and reduces General Fund expenditure by the same amount. We face a \$1 billion shortfall in 2016-17. Governor in January may assume that the tax will continue; or, he may assume that it won't be there, so he'll propose a budget with \$1 billion less in federal funds.

Replacing the current tax could be solved through the special session or may need to be solved through the budget process.

Question: do we guess that the governor will go with the pessimistic scenario?
Scott's response: he thinks it's more likely that the governor will propose cuts.

Question: what should organizations do in the next six weeks to push an MCO agreement? Scott's response: the discussions are at the level of governor's office, legislative leaders, and health plans. If you are in districts with Republican legislators, you can go into their office and talk to them: needs some Republican support to pass.

Comment: would like to interact further. Scott's email is sgraves@calbudgetcenter.org

Summit and Conference Review

Highlights and actions under way as a result of the Summit and Community of Constituents conference

Sheila Allen: think of your work as a website: people just want information, not necessarily how you got all the information.

Erlinda Bourcier: shared the materials with their coalition. Then asked what people thought of Darrell Steinberg's remarks. Note: Darrell Steinberg wrote an op-ed piece for the Sacramento Bee with remarks similar to those he gave at the conference:

<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article36452658.html>

Marilou Christina: thoughtful; great presentations. Importance of advocacy. Didn't hear much about future of CCI and Cal MediConnect. Any comments?

Debbie Toth and Amber Cutler: some advocates are supporting continuation of the CCI to keep from disrupting what's now in place. There is also fear of the impact on services if the MCO tax is not renewed.

Fran Smith: an "ah-ha" moment at the dinner: we have established a community.

Debbie Toth and Cindy Kaufman: high impact of the presentations on long term care financing at Summit and conference. Hopes to continue the dialogue with Joann Handy and others.

Kali Peterson: has notes from the early morning planning/brainstorming session (8 a.m. at the Community of Constituents conference): she will turn those notes into a Survey Monkey. This will be an opportunity for all to identify priorities for February one-day regional meetings, such as long term care financing.

Collaborative should invite Anne Tumlinson to present on long term care financing options after the release on November 17 of her data. Interested regional coalition members may want to participate as well as join the workgroup that Suzanne Reed and others at the Legislature will be putting together with the Collaborative.

Greg Underwood: Invite primary care providers to future conferences: that profession seems under enormous pressure.

Forest Harlan: two themes came up last week multiple times that we hadn't heard much about in past years: homelessness and social determinants of health.

Project Highlights:

San Mateo New Beginning Coalition

Cristina Ugaitafa and Marilyn Baker-Venturini: they have spent some time this year revamping the way they conduct business. This past year they have asked various experts from neighboring coalitions to speak. This year was also the year for a needs assessment and for recruitment of new members. A highlight was a discussion led by Faye Gordon of Justice in Aging. 2015-16 priorities were set in July: housing and transportation are a priority. The community assessment is now under way: access to services, housing, and transportation rise to the top. In January: adopt goals for next two years.

In December: Ventura County Evidence Based Health Promotion Coalition, Service and Advocacy Coalition, and San Diego's LTC Integration Project

SCAN Foundation Update

November 30 is last date for budget revisions to current grants.

Dec. 2 is TSF board meeting to consider next year's grants.

10:30 **Adjourn**

Notes:

The next calls, first Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 10:30:

- *December 3, guest will be Professor Karen Davis, Johns Hopkins University*
- *January 7, 9:30 a.m.*
- *February 4, 9:30 a.m. – calls on the first Thursday of each month*

Agendas go out two days before each call. *Regional coalitions are welcome to include additional members on the calls, whenever topics are of interest.*

Participants:

Guest: Scott Graves, California Budget and Policy Center

Alameda County: Wendy Peterson

Orange County: Mallory Vega

San Francisco: Melissa McGee and Cindy Kauffman

San Diego: Louis Frick

Bay Area Senior Health Policy: Katherine Kelly

Riverside: Renee Dar-Khan, Greg Underwood, Mary Rios, and Martha Durbin

L.A.: Amber Cutler, Brandi Orton, and Jason Moore

Santa Clara: Cara Sansonia and Marilou Cristina

Yolo: Sheila Allen, Pam Miller, Fran Smith

Chico: Sarah May and Forest Harlan

Central Valley: Marlene Hubbell

Stanislaus: Erlinda Bourcier and Linda Lowe

Nevada County: Pam Miller and Ana Acton

Monterey Bay: Patty Talbot

Ventura County: Blair Craddock, Sue Tatangelo, and Jamie Anderson

San Mateo: Cristina Ugaitafa, Deborah Owdom, and Marilyn Baker-Venturini

Service and Advocacy: Jennifer Griffin

Co. Co. Co.: Debbie Toth, Gerald Richards

Santa Barbara: Yolanda Perez

TSF: Kali Peterson and Rene Seidel
GACI: Jack Hailey